

**REPORT PRESENTED BY GEN. PORFIRIO DIAZ,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES
TO HIS FOLLOW COUNTRYMEN; COVERING
HIS ADMINISTRATION DURING THE
CONSTITUTIONAL PERIOD FROM
THE 1ST OF DECEMBER, 1900 TO THE 30TH OF
NOVEMBER, 1904**

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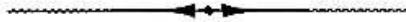
GEN. PORFIRIO DIAZ

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES

TO HIS FOLLOW COUNTRYMEN

Covering his administration during
the Constitutional period from the 1st. of December, 1900 to the 29th of November, 1904.

Mexico. Presidente, 1884-1911 (Díaz)



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It is with sincere pleasure that I again come before my countrymen, in compliance with the duty I have imposed on myself, to give them a personal account of the progress and condition of the different branches of the administration during every four year period of my mandate, at the moment when the electors renew their trust. I believe that by this proceeding as well as by my own efforts and those of my fellow workers in the public service, I respond to the distinction with which I have been honored by the people in elevating me to the high and difficult office of Chief Executive, and I must reiterate my determination, which is every day greater, to employ my best efforts on behalf of the welfare, dignity and progress of the nation.

Before presenting a brief statement of the events of the last four years and of the administrative action to which they have given rise, I consider it necessary to give prominence to a fact that I consider of importance and of high present and future significance. The period covered by this report has really been a time of trial for the vitality of the country and for its steady and stable progress. Since the consolidation of peace and the full entrance of the Republic on the path of advancement, there has been no administrative period that has not presented to the administration, some grave difficulty to overcome, some serious obstacle to be set aside, some vital problem to resolve, or some urgent necessity to satisfy.

In all of these, thanks to the peace that we now enjoy, to the solidarity that unites us and the patriotism by which we are inspired, the difficulties have been overcome, the obstacles smoothed over and the necessities fully satisfied; but in all these cases the effort to obtain the result has been perceptible and even laborious, whilst the country has on some occasions found itself under the necessity of making important sacrifices to counteract the evils that have threatened it and that have emanated from natural and so to speak, even fatal causes, that were foreign to its action and to its will.

During the period under review, the difficulties have not come singly nor have we encountered only one obstacle. A multitude and succession of events have appeared to co-operate in threatening our interests, but the country has been able to rise above all these impediments and control the situation without any necessity of making great efforts or perceptible sacrifices, without taking any exceptional measures or suffering any disturbance in the general progress of its affairs.

Neither the great scarcity of money nor the threat of an industrial crisis, which was prolonged from the end of my previous term of office well into the commencement of the present one; neither the unprecedented depreciation of silver which almost immediately after supervened, nor the fatiguing and finally victorious campaigns against the rebels who refused to recognize the Government and which it was necessary to undertake and bring to a successful conclusion, nor the necessity of acquiring a permanent control of the extensive systems of transportation lines existing in the country for the purpose of protecting our commerce and securing the transit of its products, nor the terrible epidemic that threatened devastation and which we were able to stamp out; none of these separate events nor even the whole of them together have been sufficient to make any impression on the tranquillity of the country or to interrupt its progress, and the immen-

se efforts and appreciable sacrifices that have been found necessary to combat so many and such serious evils, have almost appeared insignificant when compared with the results obtained.

When a country, in the midst of difficulties of all kinds, can move on with such confidence and preserve unaltered its tranquility and peace, as well as the possession of all its resources; when in order to overcome those difficulties it finds itself not only not obliged to encroach on its resources, but rather in a position to increase them still more; when the struggle does not enervate nor exhaust its energies but rather gives them strength and tone, full confidence may be felt in its solidity as well as in the harmony and continuity of its forces and vitality. We can then say that it has issued from the critical period of infancy and from the dangerous age of adolescence and that it is entering on the full and vigorous period of national life.

Such is for me, the high significance of the period under review. When the work does not constitute an acute and transitory crisis, but a regular function; when the triumph over obstacles is not a mere accident without antecedents or consequences of the same order, but a systematic chain or co-ordinated action and reaction; when the wealth and welfare attained are not the mere effect of chance, but ends that have been deliberately and consciously reached by the action of adequate means, there is no individual or social organism that must not be considered as normally constituted and that has not earned a right to expect, that should fresh difficulties arise, it will in the same manner know how to overcome and triumph over them.

Like all progressive work, the labors that have been entrusted to the Executive are and must be of an indefinite character. These is therefore a great deal to be attempted and attained; but what has been already done justifies the asser-

tion that the programme of peace and progress, to the development of which the country is entirely dedicated, has fulfilled, if not all that could be promised, at least more and much more than what could reasonably have been expected in a quarter of a century, especially if we bear in mind the point from which this movement started.

The realization of these anticipations is a national as well as administrative work; the administration has required the support of the people and the self denying efforts of numerous and zealous co-operators, none of which have been wanting. On the other hand, the Government itself has always endeavored to second, within the sphere of its constitutional powers, the action of all workers in the path of progress. It is to this co-operation, real and effective at present, and which there is no reason to fear will cease in the future, that we must attribute the successful regeneration and reorganization that have led the country to its present condition of welfare.

After this indispensable preamble, I will proceed to lay before you the sketch of the administrative work of the last four years, following in the order of the Departments of State under whose charge they are.

Foreign Affairs.

I have already fully explained on other similar occasions, the policy which has governed the action of my Government in its relations with foreign countries. This policy, which is fundamentally based on mutual respect and esteem, has resulted in a gradual strengthening of the international ties, that now bring us into close relations with other civilized

nations. The Executive considers that it has in this way responded to a national aspiration, which desires to establish the credit of the nation in the different countries of the world, and at the same time show a desire to open the doors of the Republic freely to the ideas, principles, sentiments and interests, that bring modern societies into close touch with each other.

During the period now under revision, Mexico has appointed official representatives near the Governments of several countries, with which it formerly had no diplomatic relations.

Amongst these countries are some that, from their community of origin and the character of their institutions, occupy a special place in our affections and sympathy. I refer to the South American Republics, that with a deference that has earned our national gratitude, have sent missions here that were especially charged with the duty of strengthening the relations that, although not in a diplomatic manner, have always existed between Mexico and those States. With the object of responding to those desires, the Federal Government considered it desirable to establish two Legations, one for the Republics on the Atlantic and the other for those on the Pacific; both are now duly established and render important and efficient service.

The Nation has subsequently established relations with the far off Persian Empire, having had the satisfaction of receiving a distinguished diplomat with the character of Ambassador Extraordinary to the Government of this Republic. In order to respond to this distinction, I in my turn, appointed another diplomat from our country with the same character, who was officially received by his Majesty the Shah of Persia, with special demonstrations of friendship and courtesy towards the Mexican Government and people.

Still more recently, the Government of the Chinese Em-

pire, with which we have for some years had a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce, was pleased to commission its representative in Washington to establish diplomatic relations between that Empire and our Republic, and Mexico for the first time received a Minister from that distant country. A diplomatic representative from Mexico was consequently accredited in Peking. It is to be hoped that these new relations with China will give a practical result in favor of the commerce of both Nations.

A Mexican Minister has for the first time presented himself in the capital of Paraguay, thus responding to the courtesy of that country, which three years ago sent a Plenipotentiary to Mexico. Our Minister has been well received by the people and Government of Paraguay.

Amongst the events connected with the subject I now refer to, the one that undoubtedly is of the greatest importance, is the renewal of diplomatic relations between Mexico and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As in due time announced to the Nation, the two Governments simultaneously appointed their respective representatives, and in this way, the relations between the two peoples who had no reason to remain isolated from each other in the concert of international interests, have been officially consolidated.

Our Foreign Relations have not been confined to placing ourselves in touch with nations that for a long time have formed part of the group of constituted States; but likewise have been extended to those that in recent times have been established with an autonomous and independent life: I allude to the new Republic of Cuba, which was proclaimed within the period covered by this report. In the immediately preceeding period, I reported on the attitude assumed by the Mexican Government during the events that took place on that Island. It is extremely satisfactory to me to state, that during the period in which those events took place, the con-